

HB 1282 -- Expert Witnesses

Sponsor or Co-Sponsors: Gaskill

Same as or similar to: Year:

Emergency Clause: or Effective Date of:

Use Summary For: Version:, Year:,

Verbatim:

Modify above as follows:

New summary as follows: This bill revises the law governing the admissibility of expert testimony. In determining whether an expert's opinion will assist the jury in understanding the evidence, the court must find that 1) the relationship between the opinion and the supporting theory and experiments is sufficiently close and congruent so as not to render the opinion speculative and that 2) the opinion may be validly and reliably drawn from the theory. Current law allows the court discretion is allowing expert testimony, as long as the court finds that the specialized knowledge, skill, experience, training or education of the expert witness will help the jury understand the evidence, and that the facts relied upon by the expert in forming an opinion are of a type that are reasonably relied upon by experts in that field. The bill requires courts to follow federal rules of evidence in their interpretation and application of the bill. Also, the bill prohibits compensating expert witnesses on a contingency basis.